

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

**FILED**  
IN CLERK'S OFFICE  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT E.D.N.Y.  
★ MAR 18 2011 ★

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KOFFI AVIAH,

BROOKLYN OFFICE

Plaintiff,

**COMPLAINT AND DEMAND  
FOR A JURY TRIAL**

-v-

Index No. 11-CV-\_\_\_\_\_

THE CITY OF NEW YORK, New York City Police  
Department Officer ("P.O.") P.O. BRIAN WEBBER  
(Shield No. 11110), P.O. JOHN DOE 1 through P.O.  
JOHN DOE 4, and SUPERVISORY OFFICER  
RICHARD ROE (the names John Doe and Richard Roe  
being fictitious, as their true names and shield numbers  
are presently unknown), in their individual and official  
capacities,

**CV 11 - 1303**

BLOCK, J.

Defendants.  
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LEVY, M.J.

Plaintiff KOFFI AVIAH, by his attorneys, DAVID B. RANKIN and ROBERT M.  
QUACKENBUSH of the Law Office of Rankin and Taylor, as and for his complaint, does  
hereby state and allege:

**PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

1. This is a civil rights action brought to vindicate plaintiff's rights under the First, Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution of the United States, through the Civil Rights Act of 1871, as amended, codified as 42 U.S.C. § 1983, and pendant claims through the Constitution and laws of the State of New York.
2. Plaintiff KOFFI AVIAH's rights were violated when officers of the New York City Police Department ("NYPD") unconstitutionally and without any legal basis arrested and used gratuitous, unlawful force against the plaintiff, despite knowing there was no justification for

an arrest or use of force. By reason of defendants' actions, particularly their unreasonable use of force and unlawful arrest, plaintiff was deprived of his constitutional, statutory and common law rights.

3. Plaintiff also seeks an award of compensatory and punitive damages and attorneys' fees.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

4. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over federal claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1343 (3-4). This action is brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 1983 and 1988 for violations of the First, Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States, as well for violations of Article 1, Section 12 of the Constitution of the State of New York and the law of the State of New York.
5. Pursuant to New York State General Obligations Law § 50-G, the plaintiff filed a timely Notice of Claim with the New York City Comptroller on or about October 4, 2010, within ninety (90) days of the events herein complained of. Thus, this Court has supplemental jurisdiction over plaintiff's claims against defendants under the Constitution and laws of the State of New York because they are so related to the within federal claims that they form part of the same case or controversy pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).
6. Plaintiff's claim was not adjusted by the New York City Comptroller's Office within the period of time provided by statute.
7. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 in that plaintiff's claim arose in the Eastern District of New York.
8. An award of costs and attorneys' fees is authorized pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1988.

**PARTIES**

9. Plaintiff KOFFI AVIAH is, and was at all times relevant to this action, a resident of the State of New York and the County of Queens.
10. Defendant, THE CITY OF NEW YORK ("CITY"), is a municipal entity created and authorized under the laws of the State of New York. It is authorized by law to maintain a police department which acts as its agent in the area of law enforcement and for which it is ultimately responsible. Defendant CITY assumes the risks incidental to the maintenance of a police force, as well as the employment of police officers, as said risks attach to the public consumers of the services provided by NYPD.
11. New York City Police Department Officer ("P.O.") P.O. BRIAN WEBBER (Shield No. 11110), P.O. JOHN DOE 1 through P.O. JOHN DOE 4, and SUPERVISORY OFFICER RICHARD ROE (referred to collectively as the "individual defendants") are and were at all times relevant herein, officers, employees and agents of the NYPD.
12. The individual defendants are being sued herein in their individual and official capacities.
13. At all times relevant herein, the individual defendants were acting under color of state law in the course and scope of their duties and functions as agents, servants, employees and officers of NYPD and otherwise performed and engaged in conduct incidental to the performance of their lawful functions in the course of their duties. They were acting for and on behalf of the NYPD at all times relevant herein, with the power and authority vested in them as officers, agents and employees of the NYPD and incidental to the lawful pursuit of their duties as officers, employees and agents of the NYPD.

14. The true names and shield numbers of defendants P.O. DOE 1 through P.O. DOE 4 and SUPERVISORY OFFICER ROE are not currently known to the plaintiff.<sup>1</sup> However, all of said defendants are employees or agents of the NYPD. Accordingly, said defendants are entitled to representation in this action by the New York City Law Department ("Law Department") upon their request, pursuant to New York State General Obligations Law § 50-k. The Law Department, then, is hereby put on notice (a) that plaintiff intends to name said officers as defendants in an amended pleading once the true names and shield numbers of said defendants becomes known to plaintiff and (b) that the Law Department should immediately begin preparing their defense in this action.

#### **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

15. The events described herein begin in the vicinity of Parsons Boulevard and Jamaica Avenue in Queens County at approximately 2:30 A.M. on July 10, 2010.
16. At approximately the time and place described supra, plaintiff was parked on the side of the road, with his hazard lights blinking and the engine turned on, waiting to pick up his friend outside the "E" train stop at Jamaica Station.
17. While waiting for his friend to arrive, defendants P.O. WEBBER and P.O. DOE 1 approached plaintiff's vehicle and asked plaintiff for his driver's license and registration.
18. Plaintiff complied with the officers' demands and gave his driver's license to the officers.
19. Defendants P.O. WEBBER and P.O. DOE 1 took plaintiff's license with them back to their police vehicle which was parked nearby.
20. Soon thereafter, the officers re-approached plaintiff by walking up the driver's side window.

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<sup>1</sup> By identifying said officers as "John Doe" and "Richard Roe," plaintiff is making no representations as to the gender of said officers.

21. Without saying anything to plaintiff, one (1) of the officers carelessly threw plaintiff's license and a traffic citation towards the dashboard above plaintiff's steering wheel, causing the license and citation to fall to area around plaintiff's feet, near the accelerator and brake pedals.
22. Plaintiff was confused at the officers' conduct and the reason for the traffic citation. Accordingly, plaintiff asked the officers the reason he was being issued a citation.
23. In response, one (1) of the officers stated, in sum and substance, "DO YOU NEED MORE TICKETS?"
24. Further confused by the officer's refusal to explain the basis for the citation, plaintiff asked the officers, in sum and substance, "Why are you telling me that?"
25. In retaliation for plaintiff's inquiries about the basis of his traffic citation, the officer ordered plaintiff, in sum and substance, "GIMME YOUR LICENSE AGAIN."
26. Since plaintiff's driver's license had been thrown to the area near his feet, and since plaintiff intended to comply with the officer's order, plaintiff reached his hand down around his feet in order to try retrieving his license.
27. When the officers noticed plaintiff reaching towards his feet, one (1) of the officers immediately reached into the car, opened the car door, began pulling plaintiff from the car without explanation or plaintiff's consent, and stated, in sum and substance, "WE'LL SHOW YOU, STUPID."
28. The officers then proceeded to pummel and beat plaintiff about his face and upper torso, causing plaintiff to crouch down in pain and in order to protect himself from the officers' beating.

29. One (1) of the officers grabbed the back of plaintiff's head and violently kned plaintiff in the face while the other officer simultaneously pushed plaintiff face-first to the pavement, causing plaintiff to begin bleeding profusely all over the street.
30. The officers then rear-cuffed plaintiff and, even though plaintiff was rear-cuffed and compliant, the officers continued to beat plaintiff around the face and upper torso.
31. The above-described beating resulted in numerous injuries to plaintiff, including but not limited to lacerated and bleeding gums and nose as well as bruising and swelling to his left arm and chest.
32. Simultaneous to these events, approximately four (4) plainclothes police officers, namely, defendants P.O. DOE 2 through P.O. DOE 4 and SUPERVISORY OFFICER ROE arrived on the scene and observed the other officers' conduct in beating and arresting the plaintiff.
33. Throughout plaintiff's beating and subsequent detention, plaintiff was terrified about what would happen to him while he was in police custody. As plaintiff had only recently emigrated to the United States from Togo, a country whose security forces have a well-earned reputation for torturing detainees and subjecting them to inhuman conditions of confinement,<sup>2</sup> plaintiff's fear concerning his well-being were entirely reasonable given plaintiff's treatment by the officer-defendants as alleged herein.

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<sup>2</sup> United States Department of State, Under Secretary for Democracy and Global Affairs, 2008 Human Rights Report: Togo, Feb. 25, 2009, available at <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/af/119029.htm> ("There were numerous reports of torture or mistreatment of detainees, according to Amnesty International [AI] in its 2008 report. Impunity remained a problem, and the government did not prosecute publicly officials for such abuses... Members of the security forces raped prostitutes who refused to provide sex in exchange for being allowed to enter some sections of Lome... Prison conditions remained harsh, with serious overcrowding, poor sanitation, and unhealthy food. At year's end Lome's central prison, built to accommodate 500 prisoners, held 1,557 inmates, including 39 women. Medical facilities were inadequate, and disease and drug abuse were widespread. Sick prisoners reportedly had to pay 1,500 CFA francs [approximately \$3.30] to guards before being allowed to visit the infirmary. There were reports that prison officials sometimes withheld medical treatment from prisoners. Lawyers and journalists reported that prison guards charged prisoners a small fee to shower, use the toilet, or have a place to sleep. Local press reported that prison guards sexually harassed female prisoners... The government provided no statistics on the number of prison deaths, but confirmed that prisoners died as a result of poor living conditions").

34. After the officers had finished beating the plaintiff, they placed him into an NYPD vehicle and transported to a nearby NYPD precinct, believed to be the 103<sup>rd</sup> Precinct located at 168-02 Byrne Avenue in Queens County.
35. Plaintiff repeatedly asked the officers in the precinct for medical attention, but the officers continuously discouraged him from going to the hospital, stating in sum and substance that it would keep him in detention much longer than necessary.
36. From the precinct, plaintiff was brought to Central Booking.
37. Plaintiff was brought before the criminal court at approximately 9:00 P.M. on July 10, 2010.
38. There, plaintiff was charged on docket number 2010-QN-041417 with violating N.Y.P.L. §§ 240.20(5) and 205.30, namely, disorderly conduct (blocking vehicular or pedestrian traffic) and resisting arrest.
39. Said charges were based upon sworn allegation of P.O. Diane Bowman, who stated as follows:
- Deponent is informed based on the supporting deposition signed by Police Officer Webber, Shield # 11110, of the 103 Precinct, that at the above date, time and place of occurrence, said officer did observed [*sic*] the defendant Koffi Aviah obstructing pedestrian traffic by blocking a walkway and bus lane causing a crowd to gather in response to the defendant's actions and resisted arrest by flailing his arms and kicking his legs.
40. However, the supporting deposition of defendant P.O. WEBBER referred to by P.O. Bowman in the criminal complaint does not exist.
41. Nevertheless, plaintiff was offered, and accepted, an adjournment in contemplation of dismissal, a disposition which resulted in dismissal of all charges against the plaintiff.
42. As a further result of defendants' conduct, plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer profound psychological and emotional trauma for which he has sought treatment from a psychologist.

43. Defendants' acts complained of supra were carried out intentionally, recklessly, with malice and gross disregard for plaintiff's rights.

44. At all relevant times described supra, the defendants were engaged in a joint venture, assisting each other in performing the various actions described herein and lending their physical presence and support and the authority of their offices to one another.

**FIRST CLAIM  
DEPRIVATION OF RIGHTS  
UNDER THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION THROUGH 42 U.S.C. § 1983**

45. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in all preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

46. Defendants, under color of state law, subjected the plaintiff to the foregoing acts and omissions without due process of law and in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 1983, thereby depriving plaintiff of his rights, privileges and immunities secured by the First, Fourth, and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, including, without limitation, deprivation of the following constitutional rights:

- a. Freedom from unreasonable seizure of his person, including the excessive use of force;
- b. Freedom from arrest without probable cause;
- c. Freedom from false imprisonment, meaning wrongful detention without good faith, reasonable suspicion or legal justification, and of which plaintiff was aware and did not consent;
- d. Freedom from the lodging of false charges against him by police officers;
- e. Freedom from having police officers fabricate evidence against him;
- f. Freedom from retaliatory prosecution;
- g. Freedom from abuse of process;
- h. Freedom from deprivation of liberty without due process of law; and
- i. The enjoyment of equal protection, privileges and immunities under the laws.



47. Defendants' deprivation of plaintiff's constitutional rights resulted in the injuries and damages set forth above.

**SECOND CLAIM**  
**SUPERVISORY LIABILITY FOR DEPRIVATION OF RIGHTS**  
**UNDER THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION THROUGH 42 U.S.C. § 1983**

48. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in all preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
49. By failing to remedy the wrongs committed by his or her subordinates, in failing to properly train, screen, supervise, or discipline his or her subordinates, and by personally participating the above-described deprivations of plaintiff's constitutional rights, defendant SUPERVISORY OFFICER ROE caused damage and injury in violation of plaintiff's rights guaranteed under 42 U.S.C. §1983, and the United States Constitution, including its First, Fourth, and Fourteenth Amendments.
50. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiff was deprived of his liberty, suffered specific and serious bodily injury, pain and suffering, psychological and emotional injury, costs and expenses, and was otherwise damaged and injured.

**THIRD CLAIM**  
**FAILURE TO INTERVENE – FOURTH AMENDMENT – 42 U.S.C. § 1983**

51. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
52. Members of the NYPD have an affirmative duty to assess the constitutionality of interactions between their fellow members of service and civilians and to intervene where they observe another member of the Police Department or other law enforcement agency employing unjustified and excessive force against a civilian or falsely arresting a civilian.

53. Defendants P.O. DOE 2 through P.O. DOE 4 and SUPERVISORY OFFICER ROE were present for the above-described incident and witnessed other defendants, to wit, P.O. WEBBER and P.O. DOE 1 unlawfully arrest the plaintiff.
54. Defendants' use of force against plaintiff was obviously excessive and unjustified under the circumstances yet defendants P.O. DOE 2 through P.O. DOE 4 and SUPERVISORY OFFICER ROE failed to take any action or make any effort to intervene, halt or protect the plaintiff from being subjected to excessive force by other individual defendants.
55. Defendant P.O. DOE 2 through P.O. DOE 4 and SUPERVISORY OFFICER ROE's violations of plaintiff's constitutional rights by failing to intervene in other defendants' clearly unconstitutional use of force and plaintiff's unconstitutional arrest resulted in the injuries and damages set forth above.

**FOURTH CLAIM**  
**MONELL CLAIM AGAINST DEFENDANT CITY – 42 U.S.C. § 1983**

56. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
57. All of the acts and omissions by the named and unnamed individual police officer defendants described above were carried out pursuant to overlapping policies and practices of the CITY OF NEW YORK which were in existence at the time of the conduct alleged herein and were engaged in with the full knowledge, consent, and cooperation and under the supervisory authority of the defendant CITY and its agency, the NYPD.
58. Defendant CITY and the NYPD, by their policy-making agents, servants and employees, authorized, sanctioned and/or ratified the individual police defendants' wrongful acts; and/or failed to prevent or stop those acts; and/or allowed or encouraged those acts to continue.

59. The acts complained of were carried out by the aforementioned individual defendants in their capacities as police officers and officials pursuant to customs, policies, usages, practices, procedures and rules of the CITY and the NYPD, all under the supervision of ranking officers of the NYPD.
60. The aforementioned customs, practices, procedures and rules of the CITY and the NYPD include, but are not limited to, the following unconstitutional practices:
- a. Using excessive force on individuals, including but not limited to individuals who have already been handcuffed or are compliant;
  - b. Arresting persons known to be innocent in order to meet “productivity goals” (i.e., arrest quotas);
  - c. Falsely swearing out criminal complaints, and/or lying and committing perjury during sworn testimony
    - i. in order to protect other officers; and/or
    - ii. in order to meet said productivity goals;
  - d. Failing to supervise, train, instruct and discipline police officers and encouraging their misconduct;
  - e. Discouraging police officers from reporting the corrupt or unlawful acts of other police officers;
  - f. Retaliating against officers who report police misconduct; and
  - g. Failing to intervene to prevent the above-mentioned practices when they reasonably could have been prevented by a supervisor or other agent or employee of the NYPD.
61. The existence of aforesaid unconstitutional customs and policies may be inferred from repeated occurrences of similar wrongful conduct, as documented in the following civil rights actions filed against the CITY:
- a. Schoolcraft v. City of New York, 10-CV-6005 (RWS) (S.D.N.Y.) (police officer who exposed a precinct’s policies and practices of illegal quotas for the issuance of summonses and arrests, falsifying evidence and suborning perjury alleges he was arrested and committed to a psychiatric facility in retaliation for exposing said policies and practices to the press);

- b. Thompson v. City of New York, 10-CV-3603 (ARR) (SMG) (E.D.N.Y.) (while arrestee is handcuffed and compliant, police officers use their Asp, or expandable metal baton, to beat plaintiff and also apply Mace to his face without cause);
- c. Lotorto v. City of New York, 10-CV-1223 (ILG) (JMA) (E.D.N.Y.) (police officers beat, arrest and destroy a video recording of a bystander who was recording an arrest occurring in public);
- d. Zabala v. City of New York, 3771/2010 (Sup. Ct., Kings Co.) (police officers severely beat and TASER a compliant, prone, bloodied and semi-conscious suspect after he had surrendered);
- e. Ashe v. City of New York, 09-CV-9696 (GBD) (THK) (S.D.N.Y.) (police officers beat and use Mace upon arrestees even though they were both already handcuffed and compliant);
- f. Long v. City of New York, 09-CV-9216 (AKH) (S.D.N.Y.); People v. Pogan, 06416-2008 (Sup. Ct., N.Y. Co.) (officer who purposefully swore out a false complaint and used excessive force is convicted of falsifying police records and was prosecuted for recklessly using physical force; the plaintiff was engaged in expressive conduct, to wit, riding in a Critical Mass bicycle ride, when he was assaulted by the officer);
- g. Moise v. City of New York, 09-CV-9855 (DC) (JLC) (S.D.N.Y.) (police officers beat and use Mace upon a compliant arrestee while he was already in handcuffs);
- h. Taylor-Mickens v. City of New York, 09-CV-7923 (RWS) (S.D.N.Y.) (police officers at the 24<sup>th</sup> Precinct issue four summonses to a woman in retaliation for her lodging a complaint with the Civilian Complaint Review Board at the precinct);
- i. Lin v. City of New York, 09-CV-1936 (PGG) (S.D.N.Y.) (officers arrest person lawfully photographing an arrest of a bicyclist in Times Square and swear out a criminal complaint whose facts are contradicted by video evidence);<sup>3</sup>
- j. Colon v. City of New York, 09-CV-0008 (E.D.N.Y.) In an Order dated November 25, 2009, which denied the CITY's motion to dismiss on Iqbal/Twombly grounds, wherein the police officers at issue were fired and prosecuted for falsifying evidence in a purported buy-and-bust operation, the Honorable District Court Judge Weinstein wrote:

Informal inquiry by the court and among the judges of this court, as well as knowledge of cases in other federal and state courts, has revealed anecdotal evidence of repeated, widespread falsification by arresting police officer of the New York City Police Department.

<sup>3</sup> For a description of this case and settlement, see, Anahad O'Connor, *City Pays \$98,000 to Critical Mass Cyclists*, N.Y. Times, March 30, 2010, available at <http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/03/30/city-pays-98000-to-critical-mass-cyclists/>.

Despite numerous inquiries by commissions and strong reported efforts by the present administration – through selection of candidates for the police force stressing academic and other qualifications, serious training to avoid constitutional violations, and strong disciplinary action within the department – there is some evidence of an attitude among officers that is sufficiently widespread to constitute a custom or policy by the city approving illegal conduct of the kind now charged.

- k. Bryant v. City of New York, 22011/2007 (Sup. Ct., Kings Co.) (jury declares that NYPD officers acted pursuant to a City policy regarding the number of arrests officers were expected to make that violated plaintiff's constitutional rights and contributed to her arrest);<sup>4</sup>
- l. Callaghan v. City of New York, 07-CV-9611 (PKC) (S.D.N.Y.) (officers accused of falsifying evidence and retaliatory arrests of bicyclists engaged in expressive conduct, to wit, riding in Critical Mass bicycle rides after the 2004 Republican National Convention);<sup>5</sup>
- m. Carmody v. City of New York, 05-CV-8084 (HB), 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 83207 (S.D.N.Y.) (police officer alleges that he was terminated for cooperating with another officer's claims of a hostile work environment);
- n. MacNamara v. City of New York, 04-CV-9216 (RJS) (JCF) (S.D.N.Y.) (evidence of perjured sworn statements systematically provided by officers to attempt to cover-up or justify unlawful mass arrests of approximately 1800 people has been and continues to be developed in the consolidated litigation arising out of the 2004 Republican National Convention);
- o. McMillan v. City of New York, 04-CV-3990 (FB) (RML) (E.D.N.Y.) (officers fabricated evidence and used excessive force against an African-American man in Kings County and initiated drug charges against him, despite an absence of any quantum of suspicion);
- p. Avent v. City of New York, 04-CV-2451 (CBA) (CLP) (E.D.N.Y.) (same);
- q. Smith v. City of New York, 04-CV-1045 (RRM) (JMA) (E.D.N.Y.) (same);
- r. Powers v. City of New York, 04-CV-2246 (NGG), 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 27704 (E.D.N.Y.) (police officer alleges unlawful retaliation by other police officers after testifying about corruption within the NYPD);

<sup>4</sup> For a description of this case and ultimate settlement, see, Oren Yaniv, *Court rules that cops do use quotas, woman injured in 2006 arrest settles for \$75,000*, N.Y. Daily News, Feb. 19, 2011, available at [http://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny\\_crime/2011/02/19/2011-02-19\\_court\\_rules\\_that\\_cops\\_do\\_use\\_quotas\\_woman\\_injured\\_in\\_2006\\_arrest\\_settles\\_for\\_750.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny_crime/2011/02/19/2011-02-19_court_rules_that_cops_do_use_quotas_woman_injured_in_2006_arrest_settles_for_750.html).

<sup>5</sup> For a description of this case and the nearly \$1 million settlement, see, Cate Doty, *Bike Riders in New York Win Settlement*, N.Y. Times, October 18, 2010, available at [http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/19/nyregion/19critical.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/19/nyregion/19critical.html?_r=1).

- s. Nonnemann v. City of New York, 02-CV-10131 (JSR) (AJP), 2004 U.S. LEXIS 8966 (S.D.N.Y.) (former NYPD lieutenant alleging retaliatory demotion and early retirement after reporting a fellow officer to IAB and CCRB for the officer's suspicionless, racially-motivated stop-and-frisk of a group of Hispanic youth);
- t. Richardson v. City of New York, 02-CV-3651 (JG) (CLP) (E.D.N.Y.) (officers fabricated evidence, including knowingly false sworn complaints, and used excessive force against an African-American man in Kings County and initiated drug charges against him, despite an absence of any quantum of suspicion);
- u. Barry v. New York City Police Department, 01-CV-10627 \*2 (CBM), 2004 U.S. LEXIS 5951 (S.D.N.Y.) (triable issue of fact where NYPD sergeant alleged retaliatory demotion and disciplinary charges in response to sergeant's allegations of corruption within her unit and alleged that the NYPD had an "unwritten but pervasive custom of punishing officers who speak out about police misconduct and encouraging, if not facilitating, silence among officers");
- v. Taylor v. City of New York, 01-CV-5750 (ILG) (MDG) (E.D.N.Y.) (same as Richardson, except without the excessive force; judge at the criminal trial acquitting Mr. Taylor noted, on the record, that he had "significant doubt" about the truthfulness of the officers who testified);
- w. Walton v. Safir, 99-CV-4430 (AKH), 122 F.Supp.2d 466 (S.D.N.Y. 2000) (factual findings after trial that a 12-year veteran of NYPD was terminated in retaliation for criticizing the racially-motivated policies of the NYPD's Street Crime Unit and for alleging that such policies led to the NYPD shooting death of Amadou Diallo);
- x. White-Ruiz v. City of New York, 93-CV-7233 (DLC) (MHD), 983 F.Supp. 365, 380 (S.D.N.Y. 1997) (holding that the NYPD had an "unwritten policy or practice of encouraging or at least tolerating a pattern of harassment directed at officers who exposed instances of police corruption");
- y. Ariza v. City of New York, 93-CV-5287 (CPS), 1996 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 20250 at\*14 (E.D.N.Y.) (police officer alleges retaliatory duty assignments and harassment in response to his allegations about a racially-discriminatory workplace; on motion for summary judgment, the Court held that the police officer had established proof of both a widespread usage of a policy to retaliate against police officers who expose police misconduct and a failure to train in the police department);
- z. Sorlucco v. New York City Police Department, 89-CV-7225 (CCH), 88 F.2d 4 (2d Cir. 1989) (former officer entitled to trial on issue of whether she was re-assigned and then terminated after reporting that a fellow officer had raped her); and
- aa. Kaufman v. City of New York, 87-CV-4492 (RO), 1992 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 14049 (S.D.N.Y.) (bystander arrested for observing an unlawful arrest in public, requesting the officer's badge number, and telling the officer that he planned to file a report about the arrest).



62. Furthermore, the existence of the aforesaid unconstitutional customs and policies, **specifically with regard to “productivity goals,”** may be further inferred from the following:

- a. Deputy Commissioner Paul J. Browne has repeatedly admitted that NYPD commanders are permitted to set “productivity goals.”<sup>6</sup>
- b. An NYPD transit lieutenant was captured on tape telling officers to make more arrests to meet a captain's order and do more work if they want overtime assignments. “All they care about is ... summonses and arrests and 250s,” Lt. Janice Williams said, using police jargon for the NYPD Stop, Question and Frisk reports. She added, “The bottom line is everybody's individual activity is being looked at.” Later in the recording - made during a roll call in 2010 at Transit District 34 in Coney Island - she said only officers with “good productivity” will get the opportunity to work overtime. She also said Capt. James Sheerin wanted every officer to make at least one arrest per month - up from the previous order of one every three months - because crime had spiked and arrest totals were lower than other transit districts. “He wants everyone to get in the mindset that there's no more collar a quarter,” Williams said.<sup>7</sup>
- c. NYPD Officer Adil Polanco has asserted that his command, the 41<sup>st</sup> Precinct, regularly requires officer to make at least “one arrest and twenty summonses” per month. P.O. Polanco's allegations were confirmed by an audiotape obtained by the media. The contents of the tape reveal that these quotas are enforced through coercion and threats of job loss, to wit, a patrol supervisor at the 41<sup>st</sup> Precinct is overheard saying: “If you think one and 20 is breaking your balls, guess what you'll be doing. You're gong (sic) to be doing a lot more, a lot more than what they're saying.” The tape also reveals that another patrol supervisor chimed in and told the officers: “Next week, 25 and one, 35 and one, and until you decide to quit this job and go to work at a Pizza Hut, this is what you're going to be doing till (sic) then.”<sup>8</sup>
- d. The New York Daily News obtained and published two (2) internal memos which were posted inside the roll-call room at the NYPD's 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct. The memos specifically instructed officers about “number of tickets to give drivers for cell phone, seat belt, double-parking, bus stop, tinted windows and truck route violations” they

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<sup>6</sup> Jim Hoffer, *NYPD Officer claims pressure to make arrests*, WABC-TV Eyewitness News, March 2, 2010, available at <http://abclocal.go.com/wabc/story?section=news/investigators&id=7305356> (“Police Officers like others who receive compensation are provided productivity goals and they are expected to work”).

<sup>7</sup> Rocco Parascandola, *NYPD Lt. Janice Williams captured on tape pushing for more busts, but brass says there's no quotas*, N.Y. Daily News, March 3, 2011, available at [http://www.nydailynews.com/ny\\_local/2011/03/03/2011-03-03\\_nypd\\_lt\\_janice\\_williams\\_captured\\_on\\_tape\\_pushing\\_for\\_more\\_busts.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2011/03/03/2011-03-03_nypd_lt_janice_williams_captured_on_tape_pushing_for_more_busts.html).

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

were expected to issue. The memos remained posted for several weeks inside the roll-call room until the media began inquiring.<sup>9</sup>

- e. Responding to a query from a civilian who was cited on consecutive days in November of 2009 for allegedly occupying more than one seat on the New York City subway, the officer responded: "Recently we've been told to write tickets instead of give warnings for this type of thing." The officer explained that they needed to meet quotas.<sup>10</sup>
- f. In December of 2010 and in response to the pressure from their supervisors to write baseless summonses pursuant to the policy and practice of "quotas," police officers at the 79<sup>th</sup> Precinct considered organizing a so-called "daylong summons boycott." As one (1) officer at the precinct explained, "Nobody feels this is right, asking us to write summonses just to meet a quota."<sup>11</sup>
- g. In response to the planned summons-boycott at the 79<sup>th</sup> Precinct, on December 13, 2010, Deputy Chief Michael Marino marched into the precinct at roll call with a deputy inspector and read officers the riot act. "Just try it," a police source quoted Marino as saying. "I'll come down here and make sure you write them." Marino also vowed to transfer people, like he did when he was the commanding officer of the 75<sup>th</sup> Precinct in East New York.<sup>12</sup>
- h. Captain Alex Perez, the second in command at the NYPD's 81<sup>st</sup> Precinct, testified in a civil matter before a Brooklyn Supreme Court jury that officers are likely to get poor performance ratings if they have few arrests, conceding that that arrest numbers are a factor in evaluating an officer's performance.<sup>13</sup> Ultimately, the jury in that case

<sup>9</sup> James Fanelli, Cops at Brooklyn's crime-ridden 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct told to meet quotas for moving violations, memos say, N.Y. Daily News, Nov. 8, 2010, available at [http://www.nydailynews.com/ny\\_local/2010/11/08/2010-11-08\\_cops\\_told\\_to\\_meet\\_quotas.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2010/11/08/2010-11-08_cops_told_to_meet_quotas.html).

<sup>10</sup> Tom Namako and Kirsten Fleming, *Nighttime Riders in Big Sit Fit*, The New York Post, December 26, 2009, available at [http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/space\\_hogs\\_lapped\\_on\\_empty\\_subways\\_m7iRA9b4E9aYPuGvy5OO](http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/space_hogs_lapped_on_empty_subways_m7iRA9b4E9aYPuGvy5OO).

<sup>11</sup> Rocco Parascandola, *Irate cops at 79<sup>th</sup> Precinct in Bedford-Stuyvesant threaten boycott over quotas*, N.Y. Daily News, Dec. 12, 2010, available at [http://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny\\_crime/2010/12/12/2010-12-12\\_bklyn\\_cops\\_threaten\\_tixwriting\\_boycott.html#ixzz180Q0JW7t](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny_crime/2010/12/12/2010-12-12_bklyn_cops_threaten_tixwriting_boycott.html#ixzz180Q0JW7t).

<sup>12</sup> Rocco Parascandola, *Deputy Chief Michael Marino threatens cops at the 79<sup>th</sup> Precinct who want to go on summons strike*, N.Y. Daily News, Dec. 15, 2010, available at [http://www.nydailynews.com/ny\\_local/2010/12/15/2010-12-15\\_summons\\_strike\\_i\\_dare\\_ya\\_deputy.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2010/12/15/2010-12-15_summons_strike_i_dare_ya_deputy.html).

<sup>13</sup> William J. Gorta, *Brooklyn Mom's Suit Targets NYPD Arrest Quotas*, N.Y. Post, Feb. 15, 2011, at 6, available on Westlaw at 2011 WLNR 2986205; see also Oren Yaniv, *Capt. Links Arrests, Evaluation of Cops*, N.Y. Daily News, Feb. 15, 2011, at 20, also available on Westlaw at 2011 WLNR 2986205.



ruled that the police had a policy "regarding the number of arrests officers were to make that violated plaintiff's constitutional rights and contributed to her arrest."<sup>14</sup>

- i. The New York City Office of Collective Bargaining concluded that officers in Brooklyn's 75<sup>th</sup> Precinct were required to issue four (4) parking tickets, three (3) moving violation citations, three (3) "quality-of-life" summonses, make one (1) arrest and two (2) stop-and-frisks each month. Arbitrator Bonnie Siber Weinstock ruled that the NYPD maintained an illegal "summons quota for traffic violations in the precinct and by penalizing officers for failing to meet the stated number of traffic citations." She ordered the city to cease and desist from the practice.<sup>15</sup>
- j. Kieran Creighton, commander of the NYPD Housing Police Service Area 8 in the northern Bronx, was investigated for ordering officers to make a certain number of arrests each month. According to The New York Daily News:

The incident allegedly occurred in the spring when Creighton ordered at least eight members of an undercover anti-crime team to a meeting in Pelham Bay Park to berate them about an alleged lack of arrests, sources said.

"You can't make the nine collars a month, then we'll all have to go our separate ways," Creighton told the officers, according to an internal complaint obtained by The News.

Anything less than nine arrests would be a "personal slap in the face," Creighton allegedly said.

Creighton then told the cops to "finagle" the times of arrests so any overtime was paid for by a federally funded anti-drug program, the complaint alleges.

Unbeknownst to Creighton, one officer had his NYPD radio switched on - so the captain's 10 to 12 minute speech was broadcast to Bronx precincts in Morrisania and Schuylerville and taped by a 911 dispatcher.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Oren Yaniv, *Court rules that cops do use quotas, woman injured in 2006 arrest settles for \$75,000*, N.Y. Daily News, Feb. 19, 2011, available at [http://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny\\_crime/2011/02/19/2011-02-19\\_court\\_rules\\_that\\_cops\\_do\\_use\\_quotas\\_woman\\_injured\\_in\\_2006\\_arrest\\_settles\\_for\\_750.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny_crime/2011/02/19/2011-02-19_court_rules_that_cops_do_use_quotas_woman_injured_in_2006_arrest_settles_for_750.html).

<sup>15</sup> *New York City Ticket Quota Confirmed, Denied*, The Newspaper.Com, January 21, 2006, available at <http://www.thenewspaper.com/news/09/914.asp>; see also, Kirsten Cole, *NYPD's Bogus Little Secret: Parking Ticket Quotas -- Agents Often Caught Citing You For Violations You Didn't Commit*, WCBSTV.com, August 14, 2007, available at <http://wcbstv.com/topstories/parking.ticket.blitz.2.246533.html> (referring to the arbitrator's report).

<sup>16</sup> Allison Gendar, *NYPD captain allegedly caught in arrest quota fixing*, The New York Daily News, November 14, 2007, available at [http://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny\\_crime/2007/11/14/2007-11-14\\_nypd\\_captain\\_allegedly\\_caught\\_in\\_arrest\\_-1.html#ixzz0bFPBhRTz](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny_crime/2007/11/14/2007-11-14_nypd_captain_allegedly_caught_in_arrest_-1.html#ixzz0bFPBhRTz).

63. The existence of the aforesaid unconstitutional customs and practices, **specifically with regard to the failure to supervise, train, instruct and discipline police officers and encouraging their misconduct**, are further evidenced, inter alia, by the following:

- a. The Report of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Police Corruption and the Anti-Corruption Procedures of the Police Department (“Mollen Commission Report”), dated July 7, 1994, states:

In the face of this problem [of corruption], the [NYPD] allowed its systems for fighting corruption virtually to collapse. It has become more concerned about the bad publicity that corruption disclosures generate than the devastating consequences of corruption itself. As a result, its corruption control minimized, ignored and at times concealed corruption rather than root it out. Such an institutional reluctance to uncover corruption is not surprising. No institution wants its reputations tainted – especially a Department that needs the public’s confidence and partnership to be effective. A weak and poorly resources anti-corruption apparatus minimizes the likelihood of such taint, embarrassment and potential harm to careers. Thus there is a strong institutional incentive to allow corruption efforts to fray and lose priority – which is exactly what the Commission uncovered. This reluctance manifested itself in every component of the Department’s corruption controls from command accountability and supervision, to investigations, police culture, training and recruitment. For at least the past decade, the system designed to protect the Department from corruption minimized the likelihood of uncovering it.<sup>17</sup>

- b. Accordingly, in 1990, the Office of the Special Prosecutor, which investigated charges of police corruption, was abolished.
- c. In response to the Honorable Judge Weinstein’s ruling of November 25, 2009 in Colon v. City of New York, 09-CV-00008 (E.D.N.Y.), in which he noted a “widespread... custom or policy by the city approving illegal conduct” such as lying under oath and false swearing, Commissioner KELLY acknowledged, “When it happens, it’s not for personal gain. It’s more for convenience.”<sup>18</sup>
- d. Regarding defendant CITY’s tacit condonement and failure to supervise, discipline or provide remedial training when officers engage in excessive force, the Civilian

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<sup>17</sup> Mollen Commission Report, pp. 2-3, available at [http://www.parc.info/client\\_files/Special%20Reports/4%20-%20Mollen%20Commission%20-%20NYPD.pdf](http://www.parc.info/client_files/Special%20Reports/4%20-%20Mollen%20Commission%20-%20NYPD.pdf).

<sup>18</sup> Oren Yaniv and John Marzulli, *Kelly Shrugs Off Judge Who Slammed Cops*, New York Daily News, December 2, 2009, available at [http://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny\\_crime/2009/12/02/2009-12-02\\_kelly\\_shrugs\\_off\\_judge\\_who\\_rips\\_lying\\_cops.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny_crime/2009/12/02/2009-12-02_kelly_shrugs_off_judge_who_rips_lying_cops.html).

Complaint Review Board is a CITY agency, allegedly independent of the NYPD, that is responsible for investigating and issuing findings on complaints of police abuse and misconduct.<sup>19</sup> When it does, however, Police Commissioner KELLY controls whether the NYPD pursues the matter and he alone has the authority to impose discipline on the subject officer(s). Since 2005, during KELLY's tenure, only one-quarter of officers whom the CCRB found engaged in misconduct received punishment more severe than verbal "instructions." Moreover, the number of CCRB-substantiated cases that the NYPD has simply dropped (i.e., closed without action or discipline) has spiked from less than 4% each year between 2002 and 2006, to 35% in 2007, and approximately 30% in 2008. Alarming, the NYPD has refused to prosecute 40% of the cases sent to it by the CCRB in 2009.<sup>20</sup> As a result, the percentage of cases where the CCRB found misconduct but where the subject officers were given only verbal instructions or the matter was simply dropped by the NYPD rose to 66% in 2007. Substantiated complaints of excessive force against civilians accounted for more than 10% of the cases that the NYPD dropped in 2007 and account for more than 25% of cases dropped in 2008.<sup>21</sup>

64. The existence of the aforesaid unconstitutional customs and practices, **specifically with regard to the practice or custom of officers lying under oath, falsely swearing out criminal complaints, or otherwise falsifying or fabricating evidence**, are further evidenced, inter alia, by the following:

- a. The Mollen Commission concluded that police perjury and falsification of official records is probably the most common form of police corruption facing the criminal justice system. It concluded:

Regardless of the motives behind police falsifications, what is particularly troublesome about this practice is that it is widely tolerated by corrupt and honest officers alike, as well as their supervisors. Corrupt and honest officers told us that their supervisors knew or

<sup>19</sup> In 2006, out of more than 10,000 allegations that were fully investigated, the CCRB substantiated only 594 (about 6%). In 2007, out of more than 11,000 allegations that were fully investigated, the CCRB substantiated only 507 (about 5%). See, CCRB Jan.-Dec. 2007 Status Report at p. 19, available at [http://www.nyc.gov/html/ccrb/pdf/ccrbann2007\\_A.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/ccrb/pdf/ccrbann2007_A.pdf). Upon information and belief, the low rate of substantiated complaints is due in part to the above-noted de facto policy and/or well-settled and widespread custom and practice in the NYPD whereby officers refuse to report other officers' misconduct or tell false and/or incomplete stories, inter alia, in sworn testimony and statements given to the CCRB, to cover-up civil rights violations perpetrated by themselves or fellow officers, supervisors and/or subordinates.

<sup>20</sup> Christine Hauser, *Few Results for Reports of Police Misconduct*, New York Times, October 5, 2009, at A19.

<sup>21</sup> Daily News, *Editorial: City Leaders Must Get Serious About Policing the Police*, August 20, 2008.

should have known about falsified versions of searches and arrests and never questioned them.<sup>22</sup>

[...]

What breeds this tolerance is a deep-rooted perception among many officers of all ranks within the Department that nothing is really wrong with compromising facts to fight crime in the real world. Simply put, despite the devastating consequences of police falsifications, there is a persistent belief among many officers that it is necessary and justifies, even if unlawful. As one dedicated officer put it, police officers often view falsification as, to use his words, “doing God’s work” – doing whatever it takes to get a suspected criminal off the streets. This attitude is so entrenched, especially in high-crime precincts, that when investigators confronted one recently arrested officer with evidence of perjury, he asked in disbelief, “What’s wrong with that? They’re guilty.”<sup>23</sup>

- b. In late 2009, a former NYPD officer in the Bronx, Pedro Corniel, was charged with perjury for claiming to have caught a burglar “red-handed,” when, in fact, two other officers had made the arrest and handed the arrest off to Mr. Corniel. The suspect was released.<sup>24</sup> Moreover,

Prosecutors and NYPD Internal Affairs probers have identified as many as two dozen cases in the past year in which cops allegedly made false statements involving routine arrests when the truth would have served them just as well.

That’s a significant increase over previous years, sources said. “In the past, we’d find this happening once or twice a year, and now there are a bunch of them,” said one law-enforcement official.

What has the authorities particularly troubled is that officers historically have lied to cover up more serious corruption, such as the cadre of Brooklyn narcotics cops caught last year stealing drugs from dealers and masking their thievery by filing false reports about what they had seized.

But internal probers are now finding that officers appear willing to take insidious shortcuts and lie on arrest reports when they are

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<sup>22</sup> Mollen Commission Report, p. 36.

<sup>23</sup> Mollen Commission Report, pp. 40-41.

<sup>24</sup> Murray Weiss, *NYPD in a Liar Storm*, New York Post, October 26, 2009, available at [http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/nypd\\_in\\_liar\\_storm\\_qazMBEm3UNJVogv4Ndeqcl](http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/nypd_in_liar_storm_qazMBEm3UNJVogv4Ndeqcl).

processing even routine collars, such as grand larceny, burglaries and robberies, sources told The Post.

Their reasons could range from trying to cut down on paperwork to being lazy when filling out arrest and incident reports.<sup>25</sup>

- c. In 2007, former NYPD Officer Dennis Kim admitted to accepting money and sexual favors from the proprietor of a brothel in Queens County in exchange for protecting that brothel. Mr. Kim was convicted of those offenses. The 109<sup>th</sup> Precinct of the NYPD, which used to be Mr. Kim's command, is also under investigation by the United States Attorney's Office for "plant[ing] drugs on suspects and steal[ing] cash during gambling raids." The 109<sup>th</sup> Precinct is believed to be involved in a practice known as "flaking" wherein police officers plant drugs on suspects in order to bring legitimacy to an arrest. According to Assistant United States Attorney Monica Ryan, members of the 109<sup>th</sup> Precinct "maintained a small stash of drugs in an Altoids tin for this purpose."<sup>26</sup>
- d. In December of 2009, two (2) officers from the 81<sup>st</sup> Precinct in Brooklyn arrested and falsely swore out charges against an undercover officer from the Internal Affairs Bureau. As explained in an article in the New York Post:

The officers were snared in a sting by Internal Affairs in December when they were told to keep an eye out for people selling untaxed cigarettes in their precinct.

Some time later, they saw a man hanging out on a corner in the neighborhood and found that he was carrying packs of knock-off smokes.

[Sgt. Raymond] Stukes, 45, and [Officer Hector] Tirado, 30, cuffed him, but then claimed that they had seen him selling the bogus butts to two people, according to sources.

Little did the hapless cops know that the man in their custody was an undercover corruption investigator and that the whole incident was caught on video.

To complete the ruse, the undercover cop was processed at the station house so as to not tip off Stukes and Tirado about the sting...

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<sup>25</sup> *Id.*

<sup>26</sup> John Marzulli, *Claims of Corruption at Queens Precinct Put Crooked Cop's Sentencing on Hold*, New York Daily News, June 20, 2008, available at [http://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny\\_crime/2008/06/20/2008-06-20\\_claims\\_of\\_corruption\\_at\\_queens\\_precinct\\_.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny_crime/2008/06/20/2008-06-20_claims_of_corruption_at_queens_precinct_.html).

[P]olice sources said [this action] stem[s] from precinct commanders caving to the pressure of top brass to make themselves look better.

“There’s pressure on the cops from the bosses and they’re getting pressured from headquarters,” a police source told The Post.<sup>27</sup>

The officers were indicted for felony perjury, filing a false report and filing a false instrument.<sup>28</sup>

- e. In early 2010, the CITY recently settled a civil rights lawsuit wherein one Officer Sean Spencer<sup>29</sup> falsely arrested and accused a 41-year old grandmother of prostitution, promising to pay the woman \$35,000. In court documents, Caroline Chen, the attorney representing the CITY in the case, admitted: “Officer Spencer falsely reported to the assistant district attorney that he saw [the plaintiff] beckon to three male passersby and that he was aware that plaintiff was previously arrested for [prostitution] when the plaintiff had never been arrested for this offense.” According to the attorney for the Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association, disciplinary charges against the officer are pending.<sup>30</sup>
- f. Separate grand jury investigations into drug-related police corruption in the Bronx and Manhattan revealed that more than a dozen officers had been breaking into drug dealers’ apartments, stealing and then selling their drugs and perjuring themselves by filing false arrest reports. District attorneys and their assistants interviewed during a four-month investigation by New York Newsday said they believe those two grand jury investigations - in the 46<sup>th</sup> Precinct in the University Heights section of the Bronx and the 34th Precinct - are not isolated instances. They say the investigations reflect a larger, broader problem within the NYPD that its top officials seem unable or unwilling to acknowledge.<sup>31</sup>

65. The existence of the aforesaid unconstitutional customs and practices, **specifically with regard to the practice or custom of discouraging police officers from reporting the**

<sup>27</sup> Larry Celona and Tim Perone, *Cops Sting Cops*, N.Y. Post, July 30, 2010, available at [http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/brooklyn/cops\\_sting\\_cops\\_lyltuTeLdhKWtruJZYsdL](http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/brooklyn/cops_sting_cops_lyltuTeLdhKWtruJZYsdL).

<sup>28</sup> John Marzulli, *Brooklyn cops charged with barding into sting operation, arresting a fellow officer on bogus charges*, N.Y. Daily News, July 30, 2010, available at [http://www.nydailynews.com/ny\\_local/2010/07/30/2010-07-30\\_brooklyn\\_cops\\_charged\\_with\\_barging\\_into\\_sting\\_operation\\_arresting\\_a\\_fellow\\_offic.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2010/07/30/2010-07-30_brooklyn_cops_charged_with_barging_into_sting_operation_arresting_a_fellow_offic.html).

<sup>29</sup> In sum, the CITY has paid out \$80,000 to settle four (4) federal lawsuits against Officer Sean Spencer. John Marzulli, *City shells out \$35G to grandmother, Monica Gonzalez, busted as hooker*, New York Daily News, January 7, 2010, available at [http://www.nydailynews.com/ny\\_local/2010/01/08/2010-01-08\\_city\\_shells\\_out\\_35g\\_to\\_granny\\_busted\\_as\\_hooker.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2010/01/08/2010-01-08_city_shells_out_35g_to_granny_busted_as_hooker.html).

<sup>30</sup> *Id.*

<sup>31</sup> David Kocieniewski and Leonard Levitt, *When the Finest Go Bad: DAs, others say department overlooks corruption*, New York Newsday, November 18, 1991, at 6.



**corrupt or unlawful practices of other police officers and of retaliating against officers who report misconduct**, are further evidenced, inter alia, by the following:

- a. Former New York County District Attorney Robert Morgenthau has been quoted as acknowledging that, in the NYPD, there is a “code of silence,” or a “code of protection” that exists among officers and that is followed carefully;
  - b. In 1985, former NYPD Commissioner Benjamin Ward, testifying before a State Senate Committee, acknowledged the existence of the “code of silence” in the NYPD;
  - c. Former NYPD Commissioner Robert Daly wrote in 1991 that the “blue wall of solidarity with its macho mores and prejudices, its cover-ups and silence, is reinforced every day in every way.”
66. The existence of the above-described unlawful de facto policies and/or well-settled and widespread customs and practices is known to, encouraged and/or condoned by supervisory and policy-making officer and officials of the NYPD and the CITY, including, without limitation, Commissioner KELLY.
67. The actions of the individual police defendants resulted from and were taken pursuant to the above-mentioned de facto policies and/or well-settled and widespread customs and practices of the CITY, which are implemented by members of the NYPD, of engaging in systematic and ubiquitous perjury, both oral and written, to cover-up federal law violations committed against civilians by either themselves or their fellow officers, supervisors and/or subordinates. They do so with the knowledge and approval of their supervisors, commanders and Commissioner Raymond KELLY (“KELLY”) who all: (i) tacitly accept and encourage a code of silence wherein police officers refuse to report other officers’ misconduct or tell false and/or incomplete stories, inter alia, in sworn testimony, official reports, in statements to the CCRB and the Internal Affairs Bureau (“IAB”), and in public statements designed to cover for and/or falsely exonerate accused police officers; and (ii) encourage and, in the absence of video evidence blatantly exposing the officers’ perjury, fail to discipline officers for

“testilying” and/or fabricating false evidence to initiate and continue the malicious prosecution of civilians in order to cover-up civil rights violations perpetrated by themselves of fellow offices, supervisors and/or subordinates against those civilians.

68. All of the foregoing acts by defendants deprived the plaintiff of federally protected rights, including, but limited to, the right:

- a. Freedom from unreasonable seizure of his person, including the excessive use of force;
- b. Freedom from arrest without probable cause;
- c. Freedom from false imprisonment, meaning wrongful detention without good faith, reasonable suspicion or legal justification, and of which plaintiff was aware and did not consent;
- d. Freedom from the lodging of false charges against him by police officers;
- e. Freedom from having police officers fabricate evidence against him;
- f. Freedom from retaliatory prosecution;
- g. Freedom from abuse of process;
- h. Freedom from deprivation of liberty without due process of law; and
- i. The enjoyment of equal protection, privileges and immunities under the laws.

69. Defendant CITY knew or should have known that the acts alleged herein would deprive the plaintiff of his rights, in violation of the First, Fourth, and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution.

70. Defendant CITY is directly liable and responsible for the acts of the individual police defendants because it repeatedly and knowingly failed to properly supervise, train, instruct, and discipline them and because it repeatedly and knowingly failed to enforce the rules and regulation of the CITY and NYPD, and to require compliance with the Constitution and laws of the United States.



71. Despite knowledge of such unlawful de facto policies, practices and/or customs, these supervisory and policy-making officers and officials of the NYPD and the CITY, including Commissioner KELLY, have not taken steps to terminate these policies, practices and/or customs, do not discipline individuals who engage in such policies, practices and/or customs, or otherwise properly train police officers with regard to the constitutional and statutory limits on the exercise of their authority, and instead sanction and ratify these policies, practices and/or customs through their active encouragement of, deliberate indifference to and/or reckless disregard of the effect of said policies, practices and/or customs upon the constitutional rights of persons in the City of New York.
72. The aforementioned CITY policies, practices and/or customs of failing to supervise, train, instruct and discipline police officers and encouraging their misconduct are evidenced by the police misconduct detailed herein. Specifically, pursuant to the aforementioned CITY policies, practices and/or customs, the individual defendants felt empowered to exercise unreasonable and wholly unprovoked force against plaintiff, arrest plaintiff without probable cause and then fabricate and swear to a false story to cover up their blatant violations of plaintiff's constitutional rights. Pursuant to the aforementioned CITY policies, practices and/or customs, defendants failed to intervene in or report other defendants' violation of plaintiff's rights or subsequent perjury.
73. Plaintiff's injuries were a direct and proximate result of the defendant CITY and the NYPD's wrongful de facto policies and/or well-settled and widespread customs and practices and of the knowing and repeated failure of the defendant CITY and the NYPD to properly supervise, train and discipline their police officers.

74. The actions of the individual police defendants resulted from and were taken pursuant to the following de facto policies and/or well-settled and widespread customs and practices of the CITY, which implemented by agents or employees of the NYPD, of employing wholly unprovoked and excessive force.
75. Defendants, collectively and individually, while acting under color of state law, acquiesced in a pattern of unconstitutional conduct by subordinate police officers and were directly responsible for the violation of the plaintiff's constitutional rights.

**FIFTH CLAIM**  
**RESPONDEAT SUPERIOR LIABILITY OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK**  
**FOR STATE LAW VIOLATIONS**

76. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in all preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
77. The conduct of the individual defendants alleged herein, occurred while he or she was on duty and in uniform, and/or in and during the course and scope of his or her duties and functions as New York City POLICE OFFICERS, and/or while he or she was acting as an agent and employee of defendant THE CITY OF NEW YORK, clothed with and/or invoking state power and/or authority, and, as a result, defendant THE CITY OF NEW YORK is liable to plaintiff pursuant to the state common law doctrine of respondeat superior.
78. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiff was deprived of his liberty, suffered specific and serious bodily injury, pain and suffering, psychological and emotional injury, costs and expenses, and was otherwise damaged and injured.

**SIXTH CLAIM**  
**ASSAULT AND BATTERY**

79. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in all preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

80. By the actions described above, defendants did inflict assault and battery upon plaintiff. The acts and conduct of defendants were the direct and proximate cause of injury and damage to plaintiff and violated his statutory and common law rights as guaranteed by the laws and Constitution of the State of New York.

81. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiff was deprived of his liberty, suffered specific and serious bodily injury, pain and suffering, psychological and emotional injury, costs and expenses, and was otherwise damaged and injured.

**SEVENTH CLAIM  
FALSE ARREST AND FALSE IMPRISONMENT**

82. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in all preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

83. By the actions described above, defendants caused to be falsely arrested or falsely arrested plaintiff, without reasonable or probable cause, illegally and without a warrant, and without any right or authority to do so. The acts and conduct of the defendants were the direct and proximate cause of injury and damage to plaintiff and violated his statutory and common law rights as guaranteed by the laws and Constitution of the State of New York.

84. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiff was deprived of his liberty, suffered specific and serious bodily injury, pain and suffering, psychological and emotional injury, costs and expenses, and was otherwise damaged and injured.

**EIGHTH CLAIM  
ABUSE OF PROCESS**

85. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in all preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

or justification, and the defendants were seeking a collateral advantage or corresponding detriment to the plaintiff, which was outside the legitimate ends of the process. The acts and conduct of the defendants were the direct and proximate cause of injury and damage to the plaintiff and violated his statutory and common law rights as guaranteed by the laws and Constitution of the State of New York.

87. As a result of the foregoing, the plaintiff was deprived of his liberty, suffered specific and serious bodily injury, pain and suffering, psychological and emotional injury, costs and expenses, and was otherwise damaged and injured.

**NINTH CLAIM**  
**INTENTIONAL AND NEGLIGENT INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS**

88. The plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in all preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

89. By the actions described above, defendants engaged in extreme and outrageous conduct, which intentionally and/or negligently caused severe emotional distress to plaintiff. The acts and conduct of the defendants were the direct and proximate cause of injury and damage to the plaintiff and violated his statutory and common law rights as guaranteed by the laws and Constitution of the State of New York.

90. As a result of the foregoing, the plaintiff was deprived of his liberty, suffered specific and serious bodily injury, pain and suffering, psychological and emotional injury, great humiliation, costs and expenses, and was otherwise damaged and injured.

**TENTH CLAIM**  
**VIOLATION OF RIGHT TO EQUAL PROTECTION OF LAW**

91. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in all preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
92. By the actions described above, defendants violated the plaintiff's right to equal protection of law. The acts and conduct of the defendants were the direct and proximate cause of injury and damage to plaintiff and violated his statutory and common law rights as guaranteed by the laws and Constitution of the State of New York.

**ELEVENTH CLAIM**  
**NEGLIGENCE**

93. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in all preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
94. The defendants, jointly and severally, negligently caused injuries, emotional distress and damage to the plaintiff. The acts and conduct of the defendants were the direct and proximate cause of injury and damage to the plaintiff and violated his statutory and common law rights as guaranteed by the laws and Constitution of the State of New York.
95. As a result of the foregoing, the plaintiff was deprived of their liberty, suffered specific and serious bodily injury, pain and suffering, psychological and emotional injury, costs and expenses, and was otherwise damaged and injured.

**TWELFTH CLAIM**  
**NEGLIGENT HIRING, SCREENING, RETENTION,**  
**SUPERVISION, AND TRAINING**

96. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in all preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

97. Defendant THE CITY OF NEW YORK negligently hired, screened, retained, supervised, and trained defendants. The acts and conduct of the defendants were the direct and proximate cause of injury and damage to the plaintiff and violated his statutory and common law rights as guaranteed by the laws and Constitution of the State of New York.

98. As a result of the foregoing, the plaintiff was deprived of his liberty, suffered specific and serious bodily injury, pain and suffering, psychological and emotional injury, costs and expenses, and was otherwise damaged and injured.

WHEREFORE, the plaintiff demands judgment against the defendants individually and jointly and prays for relief as follows:

- a. That he be compensated for violation of his constitutional rights, pain, suffering, mental anguish, and humiliation; and
- b. That he be awarded punitive damages against the individual defendants; and
- c. That he be compensated for attorneys' fees and the costs and disbursements of this action; and
- d. For such other further and different relief as to the Court may seem just and proper.

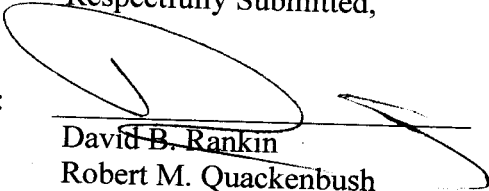
**JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury in this action on each and every one of his damage claims.

Dated: New York, New York  
March 17, 2011

Respectfully Submitted,

By:

  
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